

HEARTWORMS... continued from pg. 1

diagnosed with in-house testing, as part of a pet's routine annual exam. Other dogs cough, have exercise intolerance, develop a distended abdomen or have other symptoms. Although treatment is available, it is stressful for you and your dog, takes four to six months to complete, is risky, not always successful, and is expensive (think 15x the cost of a year's worth of heartworm prevention, and that's with no complications).

This deadly disease is so easily preventable by the administration of a monthly tablet, such as Heartgard. These flavorful treat-like chewie tablets protect our dogs from developing heartworm disease, as well as control roundworms and hookworms, two common intestinal parasites which can also be transmitted to people, especially children. We used to

think that mosquitoes died off in the winter, but did you know that many species hibernate? Just one day of warmth in the winter brings them out, or they find their way into your house. That is why we recommend keeping your dog on Heartgard year-round for full protection. It is important to note that a dog not currently on heartworm prevention must be tested first. Give us a call to schedule this simple blood test that we do right in our hospital, so that you can begin this easy preventative program today.



A N D O V E R ANIMAL HOSPITAL

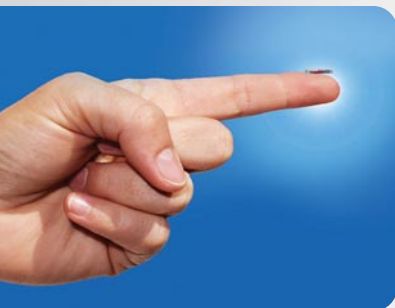
243 Newton Sparta Road, Newton, NJ 07860

25 years of excellence



Lost and Found

Thousands of pets are stolen or lost each year and never return home because they can't be identified. One of the best ways to increase the chance to be reunited is through the use of microchip technology. A microchip is about the size of a large grain of rice, injected just under your pet's skin in the area between the shoulder blades. It generally does not move out of place, and lies dormant until scanned with a special reader; it then will transmit an identification number unique to



your pet's chip. Once a veterinarian, shelter or animal control officer has this number, they contact an online registration site where the owner's information can be retrieved.

It's important to remember that the chip is not a GPS – it does not track your pet but rather provides for storage of a permanent identification number, unlike tags which can get stolen or lost, or tattoos that can fade or be disfiguring. It is also encased in a type of biocompatible material used specifically for implants, so it generally causes no problems and the pet is unaware of it. We use the HomeAgain microchip, and we can chip your pet easily during any visit; the procedure is similar to receiving a vaccination. We will also register them for you. Please give your pet the best chance possible to be returned to you if the unthinkable happens!



ANDOVER
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Around the Barn

Andover Animal Hospital

243 Newton Sparta Road
Newton, NJ 07860
Phone: (973) 940-BARN (2276)
Fax: (973) 940-0309

www.andoveranimalhospital.com

Hours

Monday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 12:00pm
Sunday: Closed

Harvey E. Hummel, VMD
Shelley L. Parker, DVM
Wendy Turner, DVM

NAVC – Continuing Education

Dr. Shelley Parker attended the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, Florida, this past January. After five full days of intensive sessions, Dr. Parker plans to bring some of what she learned to Andover Animal Hospital. She says "one of the more interesting ideas is a new technique for repairing ear hematomas that I am looking forward to using" (often called "balloon ear" by our clients, where the ear pinna fills up with blood and needs surgical repair to correct permanently). Some other ideas include techniques for wound management, and in-house tests for identifying ringworm and mange more quickly and effectively. There is also a new blood test that claims to identify kidney disease much earlier than our currently available tests, but that is not yet available to us.

Heartworms Are Always In Season

As spring finally approaches, heartworm disease traditionally comes to mind. However, veterinarians know that heartworm season is year-round. As mosquitoes become more prevalent in the environment, so does the incidence of canine heartworm disease.

Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal canine illness. Heartworms are transmitted to our dogs by the bite of an infected mosquito. During the bite, the mosquito injects the heartworm larvae, which is the infective stage of *dirofilaria immitis* (heartworm). The larvae then migrate and mature within the blood vessels of the dog's heart and lungs. The adult heartworms cause an inflammatory reaction within the blood vessels, leading to clinical disease. It isn't difficult to imagine the damage that numerous twelve inch long worms can physically cause in your dog's heart!

Signs of heartworm disease can vary. Some pets with no clinical signs at all are

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HEARTWORM

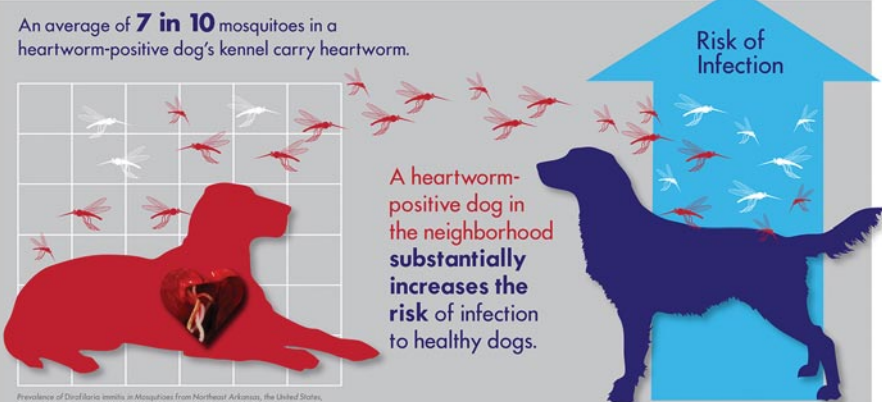
WHAT'S THE RISK?

The risk of heartworm infection can be right next door—at ANY time.



**AMERICAN
HEARTWORM
SOCIETY™**
EST. 1974

An average of **7 in 10** mosquitoes in a heartworm-positive dog's kennel carry heartworm.




A heartworm-positive dog in the neighborhood **substantially increases the risk of infection** to healthy dogs.

Prevalence of *Dirofilaria immitis* in Mosquitoes from Northeast Arkansas, the United States, Tanya McKay, T. Blanco, L. Rhodes and S. Barnett. 2003 Entomological Society of America.

There are


22

different mosquito species in the U.S. that carry heartworm and they are **active at different times of the day and year.**



Species and Control Treatments at the United States. A Review of the Literature Including New Data from Indiana, Florida, and Louisiana. Glenn A. Snyder, American Heartworm Society Symposium 2010.

HEARTWORM "SEASON" is year-round.
To protect your pet—and others—give year-round heartworm prevention.



SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER